

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1-44. (Previously cancelled)

45. (Currently Amended) A method for using a computer system to provide a user interface to an electronic text, comprising in sequence the steps of:

a. presenting, on a display controlled by the computer system, a portion of an outline of said electronic text, wherein:

i. an element of the text comprises at least one phrase appearing in said electronic text, said at least one phrase comprising at least one word;

ii. said outline comprises a plurality of elements, wherein elements of the outline comprise copies of elements of said electronic text;

iii. each element of the outline represents a portion of said electronic text;

iv. the combined elements of the outline comprise substantially less text than the entire said electronic text;

v. substantially all portions of said electronic text are represented by at least one element of the outline; and

vi. the relative positional and hierarchical relationships of elements of the outline correspond to the relative positional and hierarchical relationships of the portions of said electronic text represented by said elements of the outline;

b. in response to user action, said user action consisting only of indicating at least one element of said outline, selecting the entire portion of said electronic text represented by said at least one outline element; and

c. performing an operation exclusively on the portion of electronic text selected in step (b), wherein said operation does not cause the display of said selected electronic text.

46. (Previously added) The method of claim 45, wherein the user action of step (b) comprises a mouse click on said outline element.

47. (Previously added) The method of claim 45, further comprising the step of displaying on the outline at least one result of said operation of step (c), such that the relative positional relationships between text corresponding to said at least one operation result and original text elements represented by outline elements are maintained on the outline.

48. (Previously added) The method of claim 45, wherein the elements of text that comprise the outline correspond to the structure of the electronic text.

49. (Previously added) The method of claim 45, wherein the outline is computer-generated using said electronic text as input.

50. (Previously added) The method of claim 45, further comprising the step of modifying the appearance of said selected text to differ from the appearance of unselected text.

51. (Previously added) The method of claim 45, wherein a change in a cursor location within said electronic text, from a location corresponding to a first outline element displayed on the outline, to a location corresponding to a second outline element not displayed on the outline, causes said second outline element to be displayed on the outline.

52. (Previously added) The method of claim 47, wherein at least one operation result displayed on said outline contains a hyperlink.

53. (Previously added) The method of claim 45, wherein the operation of step (c) comprises reverse-indexing of said selected text, wherein said reverse-indexing operation comprises:

- a. identifying at least one index entry that refers to a first portion of said electronic text within said selected text referred to by said outline element;
- b. identifying at least one second portion of electronic text also referred to by said at least one index entry; and
- c. providing information about said second portion of said electronic text.

54. (Previously added) The method of claim 45, wherein the operation of step (c) comprises storing a copy of said selected text in a computer memory buffer.

55. (Previously added) The method of claim 45, wherein the operation of step (c) comprises searching within said selected text.

56. (Previously added) The method of claim 45, wherein the operation of step (c) comprises printing of said selected text.

57. (Previously added) The method of claim 45, wherein the operation of step (c) comprises copying of said selected text into an electronic clipboard.

58. (Previously added) The method of claim 45, wherein the operation of step (c) comprises calculating a parameter corresponding to the length of the text referred to by the outline element.

59. (Previously added) The method of claim 45, wherein the operation of step (c) comprises identifying additional material related to said selected text.

60. (Previously added) The method of claim 59, wherein said operation comprises using a reference work to look up additional material related to concepts referred to by a portion of said selected text.

61. (Previously added) The method of claim 45, wherein the operation of step (c) comprises identifying annotations to at least one portion of said selected text.

62. (Previously added) The method of claim 45, wherein the operation of step (c) comprises calculating a parameter related to the time spent viewing text referred to by the outline element.

63. (Previously added) The method of claim 50, wherein said appearance modification comprises highlighting of said selected text.

64. (Previously added) The method of claim 47, further comprising the step of displaying a portion of said selected text on the outline.

65. (Currently Amended) A computer system for displaying electronic text, comprising:

- a. a display device controlled by the computer, said display device imaging a portion of electronic text controlled by the computer system;

- b. an outline of said electronic text, a portion of said outline being presented on the display device, such that:

- i. an element of the text comprises at least one phrase appearing in said electronic text, said at least one phrase comprising at least one word;

- ii. said outline comprises a plurality of elements, wherein elements of the outline comprise copies of elements of said electronic text;

- iii. each element of the outline represents a portion of said electronic text;

iv. the combined elements of the outline comprise substantially less text than the entire said electronic text;

v. substantially all portions of said electronic text are represented by at least one element of the outline; and

vi. the relative positional and hierarchical relationships of elements of the outline correspond to the relative positional and hierarchical relationships of the portions of said electronic text represented by said elements of the outline;

c. a mechanism to respond to user action, said user action consisting only of indicating at least one element of said outline, by selecting the entire portion of ~~said electronic~~ text represented by said at least one outline element, and

d. a mechanism for performing an operation exclusively on the portion of electronic text selected in step (c), wherein said operation does not cause the display of said selected electronic text.

66. (Currently Amended) A computer memory storage device encoded with a computer program for using a computer system to display electronic text, comprising:

a. an outline of said electronic text, at least some portion of said outline being presented on the display device, such that:

i. an element of the text comprises at least one phrase appearing in said electronic text, said at least one phrase comprising at least one word;

ii. said outline comprises a plurality of elements, wherein elements of the outline comprise copies of elements of said electronic text;

iii. each element of the outline represents a portion of said electronic text;

iv. the combined elements of the outline comprise substantially less text than the entire said electronic text;

v. substantially all portions of said electronic text are represented by at least one element of the outline; and

vi. the relative positional and hierarchical relationships of elements of the outline correspond to the relative positional and hierarchical

relationships of the portions of said electronic text represented by said elements of the outline;

b. a mechanism to respond to user action, said user action consisting only of indicating at least one element of said outline, by selecting the entire portion of ~~said electronic~~ text represented by said at least one outline element; and

c. a mechanism for performing an operation exclusively on the portion of electronic text selected in step (b), wherein said operation does not cause the display of said selected electronic text.